



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
6 West Rose St. Ste. 400  
Walla Walla, WA 99362 -1870

In reply refer to: TFP/Walla Walla

Schultz-Hanford Area Transmission Project

**CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Dear Landowner,

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is currently planning noxious weed management activities along the proposed transmission line corridor for the Schultz-Hanford Area Transmission Line Project. The noxious weed control activities would occur along the access roads and right-of-ways that may be affected by the project. The project either crosses or is adjacent to your property. (Please see the enclosed map, the red line depicts the corridor.)

This noxious weed management program is part of BPA's regular vegetation maintenance program.

BPA is currently determining appropriate environmental restrictions for the weed control activities. Herbicide-free buffer zones would be established around resources such as streams, rivers, known springs, crops and wetlands to protect resources. Environmental information obtained through the development of the Schultz-Hanford Area Transmission Line Project Environmental Impact Statement will be used to determine those resources. The final decision on the project will be outlined in a record of decision, which is expected in February 2003.

An overall integrated vegetation management strategy is being developed for Spring 2003 in anticipation that BPA will decide to construct the proposed new transmission line. Controlling noxious weeds will help reduce the potential spread of weeds during construction activities.

BPA will cooperate with the local noxious weed control boards in Benton, Kittitas, Yakima, and Grant County. Weed boards are being consulted to determine the most appropriate weed control measures. At this time, the Grant County Noxious Weed board indicates that no noxious weeds are currently present in the Grant County area of this project.

Whenever possible, biological control agents (approved insects and fungus) will be used instead of herbicides to control these noxious weeds. If herbicides are applied they will most likely include, 2,4-d, dicamba, picloram, Escort, and clopyralid depending on the type of noxious weed and consultation with the weed control boards.

Weed control applications include spraying of approved herbicides, and possibly some mechanical methods (mowers) or manual methods (pulling of individual plants in areas of low-density). BPA would hire a contractor to implement the noxious weed control plan. The contractor would apply herbicides using a backpack sprayer or broadcast sprayer from a truck. Before weed control activities begin, BPA's contractor will notify you in advance.

If you have questions or have information that you would like BPA to consider as the noxious weed control plan is being developed, please call me directly at 509 527-6249, email me at [wterickson@bpa.gov](mailto:wterickson@bpa.gov) or call BPA toll free at 1-888-276-7790. If you want more information about transmission line projects, please visit our website at [www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects](http://www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects). Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely

Bill Erickson  
Natural Resource Specialist

Enclosures